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Anita Cline

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(Signature - Witness)

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MARSHALL UNIVERSITY HISTORY

AN ORAL INTERVIEW CONDUCTED BY: Penny Messinger

INTERVIEWEE: Anita Cline

February 4th, 1987

TRANSCRIBED & TYPED BY: Gina Kehali Kates

Messinger: Today is February the 4th, 1987. Today's interview is with Anita Cline. She's a Marshall University student, and uh, the interview's taking place in Huntington, WV. Uh, this interview is gonna be basically about her family background, her career plans, education, her life in general. Anita, tell me about your parents.

Cline: My parents. Well, my mother is a...an elementary school teacher; she teaches first grade and she's held that position for about 19 years. And uh, she enjoys her work very much. And uh, my father is a federal mine inspector, employed by the U.S. Government uh, he...well, employed actually by MSHA, which is Mine Safety and Health Administration. He's been with them for about 17 years, including his military service. He was...he served in the Marines for four years. And uh, they live in Fairdale West Virginia on a farm, and it's basically just a hobby farm, not anything productive. And uh, that's about what they're doing.

Messinger: Where exactly is Fairdale?

Cline: Okay, it's in Raleigh County; it's about oh...16 miles south of Beckley, it borders Wyoming County.

Messinger: In the very southern part of the state.

Cline: Very...right in the center of the coalfields, actually.

Messinger: Is that where you were born?

Cline: Actually I was born in Beckley, December 14th, 1963. And I've lived there all my life, apart from the time I've spent in school. Uh, well, actually, with the exception of one year; we lived in Florida, before we moved to Fairdale.

Messinger: Uh, do you have any brothers or sisters?

Cline: Yes, I'm the oldest of three girls. I have a sister Cindy, who's 11 months younger than I am, and a sister Karen who just turned 18; she's a freshman here at Marshall. And we have no brothers.

Messinger: Uh, what are they like?

Cline: Well....I have to say that we're very diverse individuals. Cindy is a tax accountant with one of the largest CPA firms in Southern West Virginia, and she is very business minded and her career suits her very well. Karen of course is a freshman and she's just now exploring life beyond living with mother and dad, so she's...right now she intends to pursue a career in nursing, but you know, as with most freshman, that could change down the line.

Messinger: Who would you say is the biggest influence in your life when you were growing up?

Cline: That's a hard decision. I guess I would have to say ...narrow it down to one person would be my dad, because my dad has always been the influence behind us to pursue an education beyond high school and he has always been the most supportive in our doing that. And you know, he never got the opportunity himself to go to college, so he...it's real important for him to see that we graduate from college and are satisfied in a career and are happy in our lives beyond that and that we make something of ourselves. I think he...he has to be the most. I guess my mother would be second. She pretty much has some of the same beliefs.

Messinger: You went to high school in Raleigh County? (mmm-hmm) Which high school would that be?

Cline: Mmmh, a very small high school; it's called Liberty, and....Liberty Raleigh, known to everyone else in the state. And I graduated fourth in a class of about a 126 and actually the school was only...when I graduated it was only 7 years old. So, they're still building and still trying to construct something other than just being a school. And they aren't very strong in athletics and they don't have any outstanding academic achievements, I don't think, but it's small; but growing.

Messinger: Did uh, your high school influence to make you want to continue your education?

Cline: Well, I think the easiest way to answer that would be to say that uh, the people that I encountered during the time that I was in high school, uh, wanted me to pursue my education more than anything because I saw what became of some of my classmates, you know, there were several of them that were married, uh, even before we were graduated and ...and just as many shortly after we graduated, and they seemed to be the type for the most part, the type of people who were just very satisfied in marrying someone in the community and then settling in the community, raising their families there and pursuing whatever type of job might be available to them, and with just a high school diploma, very few of them were ambitious enough to go on to uh, college or even any type of vocational training or anything beyond high school. And that's seems to have been the case. I mean, for the most part, the people that I can remember most vividly in my mind are doing just that. You know, there were only 11 of us out of our class that did go to college. And uh, like you said, the rest are very happily married and have families of their own; you know, some two, some three children already, and they're my age and I think that's what probably uh, encouraged me to go on because I didn't want that. I don't want to be satisfied with just that.

Messinger: How have your goals changed since you started college?

Cline: Well, I think there's an aspect of reality that you reach, once you're a...you know, when you're incredibly ambitious and ...and nothing seems too hard for you when you begin school as a freshman. And further on down the line you begin to see the

difficulty in pursuing some of these goals, and it...it really is...it's almost a rude awakening when you see that uh, although your intentions might have been good to maybe perhaps go to law school, or go to medical school or whatever, uh, every person is not ...not made to do those things. You know, some of us have to do the other things. I think my biggest mistake was following a business curriculum when I entered school as a freshman and a lot of that was because that was the career my sister was pursuing, too. And we had pretty much done the same thing all through our lives, being so close in age that we were. And, instead of taking the route that I would have preferred to take, I did the business curriculum and I did not enjoy it and I did not do well, and all the while I was thinking, now what I really would like to do is to teach, and that drew some real....real negative feedback from just about everyone that I talked to, being that most of the comments were teachers uh, are poor, you know, they're the least respected of any of the people in the job market right now. And I don't think that's as true now as it was in the past. So, now that's basically my goal now, and that is to be certified to teach, because I feel like I have something to offer in the teaching field, and in the field of education. And it gives me an opportunity to work one on one with people. And it's not an across the desk-type of job, such as just about any job in business is. And you know, I feel like I have the opportunity to uh, have some influence on other lives in that aspect.

Messenger: So, you changed majors since you started college?
(right) Are you going to Marshall full-time?

Cline: No, I uh, I spent four years at West Virginia University, like I said, beginning in the business curriculum and from there I switched to a journalism curriculum and while I was in the journalism curriculum, I uh, discovered that I could also...I could be certified uh, be a certified journalist and graduate from uh, the school of journalism, while at the same time I could be certified to teach and kind of do a little bit of both so, right now I'm being certified to teach and I will be able to teach both english and journalism on a secondary level.

Messenger: How come you decided to change schools?

Cline: Well, there are many reasons for that. Uh, first of all I think that uh, it was a need to change environment. WVU is pretty reknowned for it's party reputation and I have to admit that there were many distractions there, you know, other than...they have such a reknowned athletic program, and were there are those things, there are also partygoers and and those types of things. And it's easy to get caught up in the flux you know, it's just easy...easy to become a number up there and kind of go with the crowd and you lose touch with what you really need to do and want to do when you're in a crowd like that. So, uh, my last year I spent at WVU was not a very prosperous one. And uh, I finally came to the decision that I think ...that I thought I needed to change the environment, and having had some relatives here, faculty at Marshall, I heard some very good things about the

school, and decided I would come down here to finish my certification. And so far it's been a very nice change of environment. It's uh, it's more relaxed down here; things are a little slower paced, and I guess I've had the chance to really feel like a student in the classroom, rather than feel like a number in a classroom. Because at WVU you're...you're basically identified by your social security number and that's what you put on your tests, that's how you, you know, you're identified for everything there. And here the classes are smaller and there's been a lot of uh, one to one correspondence between teacher and student here, and I've really enjoyed that and I think I've prospered from it, thus far.

Messinger: How long have you been at Marshall...when did you transfer?

Cline: Uh, I actually started in August for the fall term this year. (of 86?) Of '86.

Messinger: (question inaudible)

Cline: Mmm-hmm, one semester. This will be my second semester.

Messinger: Which class do you think you enjoy the most in college?

Cline: Uh, that'sthat's WVU and Marshall?

Messinger: (inaudible)

Cline: Mmmm....well, I had let me think of the name of the class...it was a philosophy class, called Current Moral Issues and it was a different type of class than I've ever been used to. And we explored things that you...you hear about, but you don't necessarily learn about them. It's not something you become familiar with. Subjects such as euthanasia, uh, abortion, necrophilia, uh, bestiality, those types of things. And you know, those are things you've heard the words, but you've never really known the subject well. And so that's what this class was about. We...we explored some of those things. We...we did a lot of analysis of case studies in which these topics had been brought to view. And it was very interesting. I think it taught me more about things that were going on in the world that I'd been secluded from, coming from a rural area. And I...as I said, you may hear of cases like that in the news occasionally, but you don't really understand what they're talking about. So, I have to say that that ...that was the best class that I've taken so far. I've taken a lot of good classes, though.

Messinger: Was that at WVU or Marshall?

Cline: This was at WVU. It was a freshman class, as a matter of fact. I don't even know why I picked it. I...it just sounded interesting to me, and uh, Dr. _____ was a....the professor on the listing and I'd heard some good things about him, so I decided

I would go ahead and take the class. I knew it was a very difficult class. And uh, it was. It proved to be very difficult. But it was also very interesting and it expanded my learning a lot, I think. It made me a little more broad minded about such topics.

Messinger: You said you plan to teach. Do you plan to stay in the area? Move out of West Virginia, or have you decided?

Cline: Well, I have given it some thought. I think uh, any real teacher who's really in the job for doing just that, just being a good teacher, it shouldn't matter. But with the economy the way it is, and especially if I...if I should pursue this career as a single, I really have to consider salary. I mean, it would be ...it would be difficult not to consider the salary. And West Virginia is probably I mean, I don't know how it ranks, it is one of the lowest paid states for teachers. So, it...it depends on what...how things look when I get out. So far, uh, the job market has been very good for teachers and it's expected to get even better as time goes on. So I...it would...I would think that I would be able to pretty much choose my area uh, I don't....there aren't any specific reasons why I want to stay here in the state. If I do, that's fine, but if I don't, that's fine too, because I...I'm not afraid to leave you know, I don't....other than my family, I don't have anything here that would keep me from moving somewhere out of state.

Messinger: What area are you specializing in? High School teacher or....?

Cline: Un-huh, secondary, secondary education, language arts, journalism.

Messinger: What is (inaudible)...

Cline: Well, I guess the key factor there would be lack of patience, uh, I've seen my mom in her career and I've...oh, you know, I've listened to her talk about all the shortcomings that are involved with handling such small children, and being such an influence on them at that age that uh, and she does, there are days when she comes home and she's just had it, you know. And her patience are just gone. And I think as especially as a young child, I remember that even more, because it seemed that when mom finished her job, that she was too tired to be with us as children, you know. And I...and I think that's probably a major reason, because I feel like that with secondary age children you can ...you can still be an influence on them but you have the power of knowing that that they do listen, and you don't have to compete with...for their attention, you know. And with elementary aged kids they have very short attention spans, and uh, I feel like getting a child on the secondary level uh, 7-12, that you have a chance to recognize a certain ability, whether it be creative or otherwise. And you are able to influence that; you're able to develop that, if you're lucky. You know, you can't...it would be silly to imagine that you can have an effect on

everyone's life out there, because obviously that's not true, but ...but there are those few that are willing and those few that have a potential, and if you can recognize that potential, and develop it, I feel like you can be able to say that you've done something.

Messinger: How much longer do you have before you can (inaudible)

Cline: Hopefully another year. I'll probably be here at Marshall another year, full year.

Messinger: Do you still have your student teaching to do?

Cline: Mmm-hmm. I hope to student teach next spring. Spring of '88, I guess.

Messinger: Sounds like far away. (laughter)

Cline: It does. It sounds real far away. But I like it. I...I can't say I'd rather be doing anything else. I mean, it's been a long trek, it's been a long road, but uh, there again, I just wish that I had uh, not listened to so many other people and really done what I wanted to do. Because I feel like I was old enough at the time to have made that decision and have it be a sound decision, rather than listen to so many other advice from other people.

Messinger: This is kind of getting off the subject since we have been talking about your career and so forth, but uh, I'm wondering what you do outside of college? What do you do between ...between semesters, for example?

Cline: Well uh, during the summertime I usually have a job uh, it...it varies from year to year. Usually whatever type of part-time job I can pick up uh, it normally at minimum wage, sometimes I can get lucky and find something that pays better. I've done a variety of things, that include part-time work. I like to work though. I've had a job since I was 14 and there again, I guess my dad has influenced me uh, in that area the most because he's always tried to instill in us uh, some sort of responsibility and by earning your own money and holding a job, I think you learn the most about responsibility because there you're able to handle your own money, and learn a little bit about saving money and learn a little bit about expenses, personal expenses. And uh, I like doing that, since from the very beginning. I really did. I was able to save quite a bit of money before I even came to college. In fact, my first year of college was paid for entirely by the part-time jobs I'd held up until that point. And then after I entered college, uh, I was also able to have a job each year, which helps out a lot with college expenses, because you have things that come up that you don't anticipate; any extra money comes in handy. Also, it gives you a little bit of independence knowing that you don't have to write home every time you need \$25, you know. You're safe in knowing that you have that in the bank. And you're a little more careful about what you

spend the money on. It's yours; you worked hard for it, so you're not....you're not as likely to go out and blow \$50, you know, on whatever, you know. There's so many things that that can include. And uh, it helps a lot. You know, it just...there's just some security in knowing that you put some money in the bank and that you know that you're a good worker and you're reliable, and uh, of course, it helps in pursuing other jobs when it comes to job applications or even uh, making resumes, you've got something to put there. You know, you've got some good references and you uh, know some people who can say some good things about you. Some of your better qualities that you picked up while you've been working.

Messinger: What was the first job you ever had?

Cline: Oh, the first job I ever had...(laughter)...was not one I enjoyed a whole lot. Actually I worked at uh, a state park, at Lake Stevens in Raleigh County. And I was employed by the snack bar and most of my duties came uh, included cooking. You know, I served all the....cooked and served all the fast food that could be purchased there. But other than those, everyone who uh, was employed by this fast food place, I was also responsible for cleanup outside the park. And the cleanup I guess I liked the less....the least 'cause that's something I guess I never really liked a whole lot was cleaning up after other people. But uh, it was a job. And it was a learning experience, because you came in contact with all sorts of people. You...you learn to have patience, you learn to be a good listener. Uh, you eventually became informative in the fact that you were asked a lot of questions by tourists, people who have never been in West Virginia before. And the more you knew, the more you were able to answer, you know, and people appreciated that. And those were the types of customers that make the job worthwhile. Of course you meet up with just about as many bad customers as you do the good ones.

Messinger: Who was the most interesting person...who was the most interesting person you met when you worked there?

Cline: I would have to say it was my boss. I was never real fond of her. She uh, (laughs)....she was not...not....she was a grandmother, and when I think of grandmother, I think of someone like my own grandmother, you know, very wise and very soft-spoken, uh, informative, intelligent and very much a lady. And this particular lady was quite the opposite of that. You know, I didn't like her language; she didn't get along with people very well. In fact, she caused many arguments between uh, the student customers or the student workers and the customers and there were many disputes and many name callings and I ...I guess I really just didn't respect her, and but again, it was a learning experience, you know. That was the type of person that I knew I didn't like, and the type of person that I didn't want to become. You know, she had had very little experience with uh, communicating with people, other than just from behind the counter at the snack bar. And she reallyshe liked to think of

herself asas a power figure and she was quite the opposite of that. And uh, so watching her, and watching her interact with other people, I learned a lot. And there again, I learned a lot of patience because sometimes she...she could push you to the limit. That you just had to adapt the attitude I'm not going to let her bother me; I'm going to do the job and she's...I'm not going to let her get under my skin, and go on and do your best. And do your job.

Messinger: How many other workers were there?

Cline: Uh, seven of us worked at the same time. We usually....two in the kitchen, plus my boss, and five out front, to wait on customers. And that varied with...with season. You know, sometimes during the season we were much busier than other times, so there were days when all of us would come in and...and two of us would be sent home, depending on how the hours were.

Messinger: Uh, were the other workers all students (mmm-hmm), you said they were student workers.

Cline: Right. All...all of the employees...in fact, all the employees on the lake itself were student employees. The lifeguards, uh, the tour guides, uh, the forest rangers, uh, people who worked in the snack bar, people who worked at the marina, and each of these spots had an adult supervisor. So, it was really good because uh, there we got to work with people who were our classmates or people we just knew from school. You know, faces we recognized, so we got along well in that respect. I mean, there was no one there who...who liked to be the boss. There was no one there older than us, except for the supervisor, so we all worked pretty much on a one to one uh, equal basis. And it was, you know, the pay wasn't that great, but it was something. And when you're 14 years old, when you can bring a paycheck home of maybe \$150 after a week, that...that seems like a lot of money, and if you learn how to manage that early, then you respect it a lot.

Messinger: What did you do with the first paycheck you got?

Cline: Well, I put it in the bank. (laughs) It was the first...the first account that I'd ever opened, and...and uh, there was a lot of pride in doing that, you know, there was a lot of pride in knowing that I'm going to have \$150 to my name today.

Messinger: I would think there would be a lot of pressure to spend it.

Cline: There was but there again, I have to say my dad uh, is the type of person who, you know, favorite proverb is waste not, want not, you know, so we were never allowed to spend things on frivolities. He was the type of person you know, or he is the type of person who believes that if you don't need it, then don't buy it. You know, or or just think about it before you do something spontaneously. And just go out and waste money and he

always believed that you would regret it afterwards, if you bought something that was just entirely useless. Of course, that...it was hard. It was hard not to just go out and blow an entire \$150 on whatever you wanted. You know, go into a department store or whatever and buy a \$150 worth of clothes or ...or anything. And just completely be frivolous with your money. But, after the...after we established some sort of balance you know, in the account, my sister and I both, we decided well, now we can begin to spend things, spend money on things that ...that would be a practical use, like we...those summers we bought school clothes for the next year, things we would need for the next year. And it was a lot of pride in doing that, you know, being able to say that I bought this, you know, my mom didn't buy it for me, and my dad didn't buy it for me. And we bought things for our family, too.

Messinger: So, did your sister work, too?

Cline: Un-huh. (she worked...?) Same place I did. We...have pretty much been side by side since day one. I mean, we began in the first grade together and ...and uh, we were only 11 months apart, so that was the reason they decided not to separate us because she entered first grade as a five year old, and I turned seven you know, while I was in the first grade, so there was a bit of a maturity gap there, so the teachers and my mother got together in a little conference, and decided that uh, under normal circumstances they would have separated us like they do twins, since Cindy was quite a bit less mature than I was, they decided that it would be better to keep her with me, you know, so things would go a little smoother. And has it turned out, it worked out for the best. There were others who said that oh, I think that's a bad idea, you know, you're gonna...you're gonna do something wrong here, and mess up and cause some bad feelings between the two girls, but that never happened. In fact, it was uh, a type of support there that you don't find among other siblings I think. Because we helped each other all the way. You know, if she got in trouble, I was there; if I got in trouble, she was there. You know, our studies were the same, we ...we uh, we even studied at the same time; we made just about the same grades all the way through school. In fact, when we graduated from high school, she graduated one notch above me. She was third, I was fourth. And there was such a tiny difference in our grade point averages that it was just amazing. But a lot of it was because of the support we gave each other, you know....she's...she'sher strength's lie in math and logical areas, my strength's lie in creative areas, so it kind of balanced itself.

Messinger: Do you still feel as close to her now as you did all through school?

Cline: Yeah. In fact, I feel closer to her now. There came a point when we entered college, we entered college of course, as freshman together, and uh, she had since then been engaged, so there was a separation that occurred...(end of side 1)....uh, we entered college together as freshman, and up until that point we had pretty much been buddies, you know, in that we...we kept the

same friends, and we ran in the same crowds and then all of a sudden there was a separation, and she had another person that was as important, if not more important, than I was in her life. And this was her fiancé, who is now her husband. And they spent all their time together. I mean, uh, they were very compatible and they were very good friends uh, to begin with. So all of a sudden I was on my own and forced to be independent and uh, she had gone another way. And so that caused a little bit of tension I think during our four years of college, because uh, after the second year of college she...she was married to her husband, and there was an even stronger bond there with them. A bond that I can now no longer break, you know. Uh, so they were together as husband and wife, junior and senior year of college, and I was still single and very much on my own, and independent, and striving to be independent any way. And uh, so we were separated there for a long time. But now that she has graduated and has been married for two years, and is established in her career, and I'm going on to school, we've drawn closer again. And I like that; I like that feeling. It's...it's a lot better than feeling like there's someone between us. Now there's not just ...there's someone between us, but no one breaks the bond that we have. We really have a sisterly bond once again, just like when we were kids.

Messinger: Do you feel as close towards your younger sister? How much younger is she?

Cline: Uh, she's five years younger than I am. Yeah. Uh, I feel extremely close to my younger sister. I always tell the story to other people that when Karen was just a baby, uh, I was I guess, not five years old, but when she was two or three, I was just beginning school, and not that much older than her, but yet quite a bit older. Uh, in terms of maturity and responsibility, and my mom was just finishing her career so she was away all summers to...going to school here at Marshall, and uh, so I was forced to take on a responsibility that I'm not sure I was able to handle at the time, but I adapted quickly, and I think very well in that all of a sudden there was this very young person in my life, baby that you might say, and uh, I was responsible for her. You know, I...I rocked her to sleep at night and I made sure she was fed and uh, Iwe did things together all the time, very much like a mother would do with a daughter. And uh, this was all happening while my mother was away and so my mom missed a very large part of our childhood, and I think now she regrets that. But uh, I'm kind of glad because I know that there's that bond between Karen and myself, and she knows that uh, there isn't anything that we can't discuss and and that no problem is too big, and I've always let her know that I'm here if she needs to talk or anything like that.

Messinger: How did you feel...you said you had to take care of your sister at a young age? How did you feel about your mother working?

Cline: I think....my feelings are a lot different now than they were at the time. I think at the time she was gone, that I

realized what was missing in that there were so many things happening at that time. My dad was just becoming established in...in a different job, and my mother was pursuing her degree, and we were shifted basically back and forth between relatives and babysitters and so many people entered and left our lives during that time that now I realize that they've had a profound effect on...on how we grew up and on the person that we are. I think all three of us uh, are very much individuals and we don't necessarily have that bond with...with our mother that a lot of daughters do. Because she just wasn't there. I mean, she wasn't there to see our first steps we took, or to hear our first words. But she heard of them by way of mouth. You know, or say the pictures of us doing this or whatever. And she misses it a lot too, and uh, but on the other hand you have to consider that that a lot of mothers do that now. You know, a lot of mothers are forced to leave their children at a young age and pursue their careers or pursue their degrees or whatever. So, it has it's negative and positive effects on kids. I think for the most part it was very positive for us.

Messinger: Uh, did you have any close friends? How old was you when your mother was going back to school? About 10?

Cline: Yeah, that's about right.

Messinger: Did your friends mothers' work?

Cline: Most of them, no. I ...I can't...it's really hard to remember that far back, but uh, my mom was the only one going to school, that I can remember in grade school. You know, everyone else's mom uh, either had just a day time job and they were there in the evenings, and uh, or else their mothers just didn't work at all, and they were there all day. And I think the times that I remember the most that mom wasn't there was the times that uh, I got sick or one of my sisters got sick at school, and needed to go home, but we couldn't go home because neither parent was there. You know, so, we were kind of forced to tough it out and hang in there, and uh, unlike the rest of them, you know, if some of the kids were very ill, you know, their mothers were at school immediately, or sometimes their fathers would take them home and make sure they were taken care of and everything. But that...I think that's what I missed the most.

Messinger: You mentioned your grandmother earlier...how close...what kind of relationship do you have with your grandmother?

Cline: I'm very close to my grandmother. I...I have to say probably...it's really hard to determine whether ...which one I love the most; my mom or my grandmother because they're very much alike. Uh, my grandmother never had a job, and uh, she never had the chance to go to college and she never had the chance to finish the high school. But at the same time she is an extraordinarily intelligent woman. I mean, I just ...every time I'm with her I learn something. You know, and she ...she prides herself on being

well-read and she keeps up to date with uh, news, and those types of things and uh, she prides herself on that a whole lot. And it's just interesting to be with her you know, all the time. Whether she's talking about the present or just reminiscing of the past, you know, uh, it's just fascinating for me to sit down and listen to her tell about her childhood, you know, she was the youngest of eight and she had seven brothers, and so she was very much a tomboy, you know. And it is just hard to imagine my little grandmother a tomboy. You know, she played basketball on the high school team and uh, she just romped around with the boys, you know, climb trees and shot marbles and loved to play tackle football and play in the mud. And all those kinds of things, and it's....

Messinger: Just try to imagine your grandmother doing that.
(laughter)

Cline: It is. I mean, those are things you just don't think about when you think in terms of your grandmother. But there's...there's a real soft side to her, too. I mean uh, she's very feminine, you know, and she's a very beautiful woman, at 66 I've always said that if I looked that good when I'm 66 then I...I'll look like something you know, because she takes very good care of herself. She prides herself on being healthy. And she tries with my grandfather although she's not always successful, but she came from a very religious family and grew up under a very strict hand. (what religion?) Oh, it was southern baptist. And in fact, her mother died when she was 97, was a member of the church for 63 years, so that gives you some idea of the influence she had on their lives and the lives of their brothers, but uh, you know, she's very pure in the fact that she doesn't you know, she's very careful about what...what they eat. She doesn't like things that has additives or preservatives or any types of chemicals and uh, she...she never takes medicine; never. She's never been ill, that I know of. And she's beautiful. I mean, her skin is still very youthful; she has very healthy hair. You know, she's in good shape. She loves to swim, she loves to ride her bike, she loves to walk, and ...and that's what makes her a lot of fun, is when I go to see her, it's not just sitting across from her and chitchatting or anything. She's always the one on the go. Let's go take a walk or something. That's...that's just great because she's always been that way. And that's the way I always remember her.

Messinger: This is your maternal grandmother?

Cline: MMM-hmm. Mmm-hmm.

Messinger: How many children did she have?

Cline: Eleven.

Messinger: Fascinating. (11...11 children) Eleven!

Cline: My mother's the oldest of those eleven. In fact, her mother delivered all of the children. Her mother was a...a midwife and uh, I don't know how they did it, I mean, I...my grandfather often tells the story of how hard it was, you know, and people don't really realize that cause we couldn't imagine having...raising 11 children. They raised 11 children back when coalminers made 25 cents an hour, maybe not even that much...you know. And 25 cents an hour didn't mean 9 to 5; that meant sometimes 14, 16, 20 hours a day. Sometimes my grandfather would go to work one day, and not come back again for 3 days. He would work shift after shift, you know, back to back. And that's how they made it. I mean, they didn't have any luxuries. Some of the places they live in I can remember my mother telling stories that uh....would be typical of what we'd think backhills country folk you know, types of places that we lived in. They lived in, and uh, none of the modern facilities that we take advantage of today, you know, no indoor plumbing or no running water or anything like that. It wasn't until my mother was grown and married I guess I don't know if she had me yet or not, until they moved into a home that had all of those nice facilities and still had six kids at home and it was a very small house, and we're talking about a four bedroom house, so it was quite crowded growing up. And I guess the younger ones have more vivid memories than the older ones, because they were closer in age, the youngest six. And uh, it was an interesting life. I think I would have liked to have lived in those times. It was hard times, but there's such a sense of family on that side, and there's such a unity that you just don't see any more. You don't even read about it any more. You know, they visit each other frequently uh, we have reunions twice a year. I'm the oldest of 21 grandchildren and I know...I can know and name all my first cousins and that in itself is something else because I've met people before who know that they have first cousins, but couldn't name one of them or couldn't tell you the last time they saw each other. And uh, with us, we very much look forward to seeing each other those two times year. There's two times a year we're all together and you know, all the cousins, all the aunts and uncles, all the grandkids who have new boyfriends and there's two now that are married. And uh, it just keeps growing and growing, you know, those grandchildren are gonna have their own grandchildren one of these days. And probably quite soon, they'll be great-grandchildren in our family. And uh, it's just a wonderful feeling. It's something that you can't really describe because uh, it just doesn't happen any more. There's a real....real bond between us, a lot of love. And that...that's why I think we are where we are today is there's been so much love and so much support within our family.

Messinger: You say your grandfather's a coalminer (mmm-hmm), and he raised 11 children (11), wow, I can't believe that. (laughter) How...how close are the children? How close were the children in age? You said your mother's the oldest...how old is she now?

Cline: Uh, 46. And the youngest is 27, so there are nine kids in between there and they're really very close, I mean, we...we figured up one time that my grandmother was pregnant for something

like 7 1/2 years total or something, you know, just calculating the months by months, and uh, but to hear her tell of it now, you'd think, my goodness, how did you do that, you know. And she just smiles and looks at you and says, I wouldn't trade it for anything. You know, the more...I guess, she's always said that it's...it's very true within their family, that the more the merrier, and uh, all of the brothers and sisters are just so close, and it's so good to see that. And they're close to their mother and father and uh, they love their mother and father and the biggest fear I think I have is ...is uh, realizing that one of these days my grandmother and grandfather aren't going to be there. Or you know...you try to realize that and you try to kind of prepare yourself for it; you never really do. I don't think you'll ever be prepared, because losing one of them will be just like losing a parent. 'Cause they were there...they've always been there for as long as I can remember, as a child, you know. My granddad taught me how to walk, you know. (laughter) And uh, he...he'd tell us stories about that all the time. And he spoiled me a lot too, because I'm the first grandkid and ...and he does, he spoils me and he tells people about it, and no boy never says anything although I think some of the other grandkids do get a little jealous sometimes. But I like it, 'cause he's the only person that's ever spoiled me in my life and I'm very close to him.

Messinger: How close are you to your father's family?

Cline: Not very close at all. Unfortunately, uh, they've never taken a lot of pride in being a close-knit family. They're all very much individuals; they all have different life-styles, they live in different places uh, around the world. Well, actually, on the east coast and it...it's not important to them they can't communicate. It's not important that they see each other at Christmas time. It's not important that they recognize each other's birthdays, you know, they feel like if they visit uh, my dad is the oldest of four brothers, and uh, they feel like it's sufficient for them to call once a week and talk to their mom, and uh, send her a birthday card, you know, sometimes visit her on her birthday, but there's nothing at all like the other side of the family. And it's side because I miss my cousins and you know, I have some cousins on that side that I haven't seen for seven years. And I don't when...I couldn't tell you the next time that I will see them. But uh, I think for the most part I'm glad for my father because he can be a part of my mother's family. You know...he can be a part of all that love and all that kinship and all that closeness. And uh, my father's father uh, his parents were divorced very early; my dad was uh, probably in junior high, and in a sense, he's never had a father. There...it was...right, his mother raised him and she remarried and my stepgrandfather, I like him, but he's not my grandfather. You know, we aren't close, and we don't see each other often and they're quite a bit older, and they have their own lives. You know, and we've never been very much a part of their lives. But I regret the fact that my dad had never had a dad. You know, never some one to call dad, you know. I regret that a lot, because I see that that hurts him.

And uh, I ...I...one of these days you know, he's not gonna be there, and it's almost gonna be like he never existed any way, and that's terrible to say, but that...that's very true. You know, his father's gonna die one of these days and very few people are going to be affected by it, because he never....even when he was in the family, he was never a dad. You know, he was an alcoholic, and uh, he abused my dad and his brothers, and he abused my grandmother. And my dad and his brothers watched him abuse my grandmother, and there was a lot of resentment there, and there's a lot of hatred, and uh, so I don't know uh, if uh, he knows about it. I don't know if my grandfather knows about it, but he's not very well liked. And I don't expect that he expects to be liked.

Messinger: Sounds like really you consider your family a very important part of your life. (they are extremely important)
They've helped you a lot.

Cline: They have...they uh, all the way down the line, I mean, they...my grandparents take interest as much interest in our lives as grandchildren as they did their own children's lives. You know, we uh, we communicate real often. If I don't get to see them, they call me to find out how I'm doing, they always ask how school is going, you know, uh, you got a lot of studying to do, new people in your life. They're always concerned and it's that way....my mom's brothers are as much like my brothers as they are hers, because I never had any brothers and I always wanted them, and uh, they've kind of just filled that slot you know, and uh, especially, I guess I'm closest to him, and he's 27 and I'm 23, and uh, we're as close as brother and sister, because I know that I can depend on him if I need him, that I can always call, or if I just need to call and talk, he'll be there. And uh, they're just extremely supportive and uh, they've always encouraged each and every one of us. I mean, we're all different; all the grandkids are different. And some of us have gone on to college; some of the younger ones will go on to college but others of us won't, but that doesn't matter to them. They just matters to them that we ...we are happy in what we do, and that we succeed in what we do. And they encourage us to do that, and they don't like laziness and they don't like uh, you know, my grandmother always says idle hands are the devil's workshop. And she believes in that very much, you know. If you can't go to college or you can't go to some type of training, you can still have a job. You can still make something of your life. And so far, that's happened with every one of us that are of age.

Messinger: I keep thinking of your grandmother. She sounds like a fascinating person. How many....what are your aunts and uncles? Her children?

Cline: Well... oh, I'll have to go all the way down the line. My mom is a first grade teacher and uh, next to her is Kenny and he is employed by one of the coal companies in southern WV, in fact, she has three brothers that are coal miners, uh, she has one sister that's a deputy sheriff, uh, no in I think it's Blanc

County, Virginia, if I'm not mistaken, uh, she has one sister here that's uh, a Ph.D in the history department, Frances, and one sister who is an executive with the Discover Corporation through Sears, uh, let me think, her youngest brother is a representative for National Cash Register out of Cincinnati, Ohio, he's very successful. Next to him is Mickey and he's uh, a supervisor over a mine, a mining corporation, and she has two sisters that are just housewives, you know, they take very much pride in what they do. They have large families and you know, there's a lot...they both live on farms and there's a lot of work involved in farming, in keeping a farm updated and well-worked, so, I can't say that there are any of them that are lazy. You know, they've all made something out of their lives. They're all very happily married and have families of their own.

Messinger: (inaudible question).....how many are there?

Cline: Twenty-one of us (21), yeah. We....we're widely dispersed, I have to say. We aren't quite as close in age as the eleven children were, but there are a few of us those that are very close in age, as close as 5-6 months, and then there's a little gap there you know, where there weren't any grandkids, and all of a sudden there were six or seven, you know, in the next few years, and then there was another break, and there were five or six more, so, so, it's nice because we're....we're dispersed in age groups, you know, there are those of us that are teens and young adults and then there are the ones that are pre-teens, and then there are the elementary age kids and then there are just a couple of that are pre-school, and so it works out kind of nice because when we're together, we all have our own mates, you know, we play in the same groups, but then we...we kinda....we get along as a group....as an entire group real well. We can play softball or something, in fact, that's something we do in the summer time is our summer reunion, our whole family, it's just a big softball game or a big football game or volleyball or we swim, and just a number of things that we all can do together. And that's really fun.

Messinger: Well, I see looking at my notes that uh, we started talking about your jobs and ended up describing your family, which was very interesting. At least I can considered it very interesting. Uh, I guess we can go back to talking about your job, jobs a little bit longer. Uh, you said you worked at several jobs, (mmm-hmm), including the park, (mmm-hmm), what are some of the other things you've done?

Cline: Oh, my. Well, I worked for a toy store, uh, Circus World, in Morgantown. That was an experience. (laughter)

Messinger: Was that while you were at school?

Cline: Un-huh. This was ... in fact, I've held a job the entire I've been in college. And uh, oh, I worked for Kroger's in the deli, and I worked for a supermarket called "Apple's", that was a new thing in Morgantown, uh, I worked for a clothing store, uh,

oh, what else, I was a student waiter in the cafeteria for two years, in my freshman and sophomore year while I lived in the dorms. That was probably the...one of the jobs I liked the least, because it was a hard job. It was a real hard job. I mean, I don't guess I ever respected those people enough that worked there until I actually had the job, and then it was hard. And it required a lot of hours. I mean, they...they're nice enough to work your schedule around your classes, but if mornings were the only time you could work, then that meant getting up at five and being at work at five-twenty, and work...I usually worked until 9:30, and had to be in class by 10:00, and uh, depending on the days, it depended on whether I could come back and work the one shift, or if I had to go to the evening shift. And it was a lot of hours and a lot of hard work, and uh, since then I've done a lot of odd jobs. I do a lot of babysitting, and right now I'm cleaning house for a couple of people. And uh, that about sums my job....

Messinger: What sort of wages do you seek for a big house here in Huntington?

Dline: Well, currently I'm making \$5 an hour, so that's...it's not great but it's not bad, at the same time. I mean it helps out with a little extra bills, you know. And uh, when you need just cash on hand, yeah, so it's pretty good.

Messinger: How much do you make babysitting?

Dline: Well, normally, the rate is \$3 per child for you know, ever how many hours. And sometimes...it depends on the person. Some people like for you to tell them what you ask. Some people just assume that you won't ask and they give you what they think you should have. And so you have to kind of play it by ear. Because you don't want to offend some people by saying, "well, I charge \$3 an hour per child, and if you don't want me, that's okay". Because I...I've never been that type. You know, if someone needs a babysitter, I'll go. It doesn't matter what they're gonna pay. Uh, because I know myself, with having so many experiences with so many babysitters, and so many babysitters that I absolutely detested, I would rather do the job as I would see them be stuck with just somebody, a last minute alternative, you know. So it hasn't...it you know, it's not ait's not a sparkling type of position, I guess, to hold, but it does give you some experience with children. And uh, with pursuing your career in teaching, I need all the experience I can get, because you always learn from kids. They always have something to teach you. Most of all patience. Most of all.

Messinger: Well, I guess that's about all for this interview. Thank you for your time. (you're welcome) We appreciate it very much. (okay) Thank you again.

End of interview 1 - side 2



ORAL HISTORY

MUH-430

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HUNTINGTON, WV 25701

DATE February 13, 1987

Penny Messinger
(Signature - Witness)

Cline, Anita
MUH-430

MARSHALL UNIVERSITY HISTORY

MUH - 43b - Tape 1

an oral interviewing with: Anita Cline

conducted by: Penny Messinger

FEBRUARY 13, ¹⁹⁸⁷~~1991~~

TRANSCRIBED & TYPED BY: Gina Kehali Kates

Messinger: This is the second interview with Anita Cline. I'm Penny Messinger. This interview is taking place in Huntington, West Virginia, and today's February 13th. Uh, in the last tape we talked about Anita's life, uh, her family, college life, and the interview's gonna be more of the same. Anita, let's start off by talking about college. Uh, you chose teaching as a profession. Your mother was a teacher, (mmm-hmm), uh, did that have any influence on your choice?

Cline: It had a lot of influence. I guess uh, from a very early age I can remember my mom talking about her job, and the different aspects of the job and the different...I guess, the changes that occurred therein from the time that she began until...up until now. And uh, I can...I think she's had the most profound influence on me as far as choosing my career, because I've seen....I've seen her in the classroom and I've seen the type of job she can do, and she does a real good job. In fact, you know, we often tease her sometimes that she's a much better teacher than she is a mother because she...she seems so much more at ease with that many children of the same age. And they really command more attention of her than we ever did as her children. And uh, she...she's real patient, and she's very sensitive to the needs of all students. And I guess if I had to pinpoint one thing about her uh, those two would be the ones that stand out in my mind the most because she...seeing her in the classroom as opposed to her outside of the classroom, I see the things that uh, I myself can easily adapt to as a teacher, and that is number one, having some kind of patience, even in times when uh, you think you're just on the brink, you know, there just isn't any more patience left uh, and I've known her to be at the stage and myself be able to recognize that but you would never be able to see it while she was teaching. I mean, she has very much control over the personshe's always a professional in the classroom. And...I don't mean that in professional she's not a stiff professional, but she has earned respect of all her students and they...she does have their attention when she teaches, which is really hard when you think about you know, 30 first graders, when you think about 30 six and seven year olds and that takes an extreme amount of patience and uh, so that's the first thing I think I've learned from her is how to...how to have that control over yourself, that you're able to stand in front of a group of students, whether you feel terrible that day, whether you got a bad start, or the morning before whether you slept badly the night before, you know, no matter what kind of physical shape or mental state of being you might be in, you're able to maintain always. And to always have patience and uh, always be able to be a good instructor, and be sensitive to the needs of the students, all students, and not any in particular but all students. And the second thing is she is a professional at all times in that that doesn't stop. You know, being a teacher you can't just say my job is over at 3:30 every day. It..it never stops there with a teacher. So, there's a lot of roles that you must take on you know, you're a teacher above all, and secondly I think you're a role model in a classroom, and she...those are two things she tries to enforce at all times in a classroom. But aside from that, you know, sometimes you're a babysitter, uh,

you're a counselor, you are a mother to many who don't have mothers of their own uh, you're an accountant, you're a secretary, uh, there's just so many things that teaching entails that you don't....you don't go to school for, you know, they don't teach these aspects about teaching in college. Those are just things that you...you have to adapt to once you're in the job, and every situation is different, you know, some you know, some situations command moremore disciplinary actions than others. Myself...if I am successful in...as a secondary teacher, then my disciplinary notions are likely to be much stronger than hers. She is not a real firm disciplinarian. But you...you don't need to be as firm as an elementary teacher. You can let up a little bit. You have to. You have to....you have to be a touching person, and a hugging person, and a kissing person to be a good elementary teacher. You know, because a lot of times that's all a student needs. If they come in one morning and uh, they just don't feel good, you know, and they just need a hug, then she's able to do that really well. You don't get those chances as often in secondary schools. Sometimes you'd like to but it's not always appropriate that you show those feelings. But uh, I think if I can do that two things, that is to be patient all the time, and to be a professional all the time, then I'll be successful and as successful in my career as she is in hers.

Messinger: Uh, you said in the interview on February 4th, that when you told your family and friends that you'd decided to be a teacher, they didn't give you a lot of support. Or they didn't give you a lot of support before you announced your decision? You could tell they didn't like it. (true) How does your mother feel about your decision?

Cline: In the beginning she was...she was pretty much kept the same idea that everyone else had, you know. I think all parents have great expectations and aspirations for their children. And they're always or just about always higher than what they themselves have now. I think my mom and dad both envisioned uh, both myself and my sister as doctors or lawyers, you know, because they always push for the best and they always pushed for us to make the best of grades, and to be a well adapted, all around person, good in many things, you know. And maybe deep down in my heart my mom would have liked to see me be a teacher because she always...she's always told me that uh, she felt like I had something to give to others. And I think she feels like teaching is the best way that she can do that. She can give the most of herself to that many people by teaching. But like I said, she...she was more keen on the idea of uh, having higher aspirations for myself and like I said before, you know, in the beginning those were to go to school and enroll in a business curriculum and you know, beyond that, was getting a degree and uh, in accounting or marketing or something like that, going to grad school and from there, there were you know, there were things like what's next, and that would law school, or a political position or something like that, but I think that mostly stems from the fact that there's no one in the family like that. You know, everyone in our family is successful, in their own way. But there aren't

any people...there aren't any of us of our immediately, you know, who are doctors or are lawyers, with the exception of...we have uh, an aunt who's a ph.d and she's like the shining star of the family you know, because she's got...she's gone that far and she's got that ph.d. and she's you know, everyone looks up to her; she's considered the wisest out of all of us. And so I think you know, they had dreams of that becoming true in the beginning but a lot of changes happen when you first go into college and they're not just changes within yourself; they're changes with everybody that comes in contact with you, you know. And the best way for a family to adapt is to realize that, is to realize that you're in a different environment and you're coming in contact with different types of people with different backgrounds. And all these things influence you as a person because you do a lot of growing between the time you graduate high school, and the time you finally attain a degree and I think they did that fairly well because once they realized that I was not happy in what I was doing and they finally took the time to listen to me and to hear what my desires were and what my...what my real goals were. I think they finally understood that. I think they understood that it was not necessarily what I always wanted; it was more what they wanted. And at the time, as a freshman in college you're so eager to please, because all you want to do is make your parents proud; that seems to be the top priority with freshman entering college. And that as you know, uh, if you leave a small town where you feel like...you know you don't want to be like the people back home, but you still have a real identification with those people. But you know you have yourself the ability to go on and do better and make something of yourself. And you want to come back one of these days and say, "look at me, this is what I am now, and I told you so. I knew I could do it. And see here, I have done it." I think they've come to realize that a little better and it's all a matter of communication and you have to have communication. A lot of...I've known so many people who ...who have no communication whatsoever with their parents, and no interaction; they'll get no feedback whether what they do is good or bad. And potentially, we could have lost a lot of communication uh...with my par...both me and my sister during the time we were in college. Uh, because we were both very headstrong and we were all...we were raised to be independent and raised to uh, rely on ourself for everything and were raised to take on responsibilities that we would encounter and were always told that nothing was too big; nothing was too big to handle. And you go...you know, you...plunge into this ...this four-year program or whatever you choose to do, with the greatest expectations and the most determination of anything. And it's...it's really funny because it all seems like such fireworks from the beginning then all the fizzle's gone and all the bright lights are gone and you really hit reality. And potentially, we could have lost a lot of communication there, but thankfully we didn't, and we still have a very open communication, you know, I feel like there isn't anything I can't tell my parents. There's never been a problem so big that I couldn't go to them. And you know, there's a lot of comfort in knowing that. And there always has been. And I hope there always will be.

Messinger: Did you feel like you were being pressured to be a ...a doctor or lawyer when you first started college?

Cline: Well, yeah, like I said, I mean they...those were...was more of their aspirations than they were mine, and once you...once you're told that so often, you begin to think, well, gosh, maybe that's where it's all at, you know. Uh, because those are things you read about, you know, real successful people and real uh, honorable people are the doctors and lawyers and those are the prestigious how would you say, positions in life you know, and if...if you're anything under that, then you don't quite come up to par, you know. So, there was a lot of pressure. There's always been a lot of pressure, as far as ...both my parents have always been sticklers for grades, and you know, they were just never satisfied with a "C", and they got real upset with a "C". And therefore, you know, I can count twice in my lifetime when I made a "C" before college. And uh, so, you begin to believe in yourself, you know, and you begin to think, you know, maybe that's really where it's at for me. And that's...that's how high I should shoot. But I guess that's why there's not so much disappointment now because when you set your goals so high and then when you finally come to...come to realize that not quite what you to do, then it doesn't seem so bad, you know, it doesn't seem so bad now that I want to be a teacher and it doesn't seem so bad to my parents because they know that uh, that was my goal and that I've never done anything half way, you know, when I become a teacher, I plan to be a good teacher. And I want to be a good teacher. And the sole purpose of teaching is to uh, you can...you can touch so many lives you know, if you only influence one person. Even if you only find one person with a little bit of potential. If you develop that, then you can say you've done a good job. You know, there...I'm sure there are gonna be millions of failures in the pathway, you know, I'm sure I'm not gonna be...I...I don't look to get started my first year and be voted "Outstanding Teacher of the Year", because that just won't be so. And uh, I think a lot of times new teachers who are green I guess, at what they're doing, uh, get disappointed early on because you know, they don't start any fireworks and they don't get the type of students that they've always dreamed of having. You know, it comes in realizing that every classroom is not going to be filled with little gifted students; to think that would be ridiculous. You hope that you do have a few, but the gifted students aren't the ones who prosper from good teaching the most, because they already have in their heads the ability to do, and it's just a matter of them using it or not. But I think the best students are just the average students. The ones who really, really want to try and really have ambitions to learn and they strive to learn and they realize that education is not passive, it is active at all times, those are the ones I think you get the most joy out of.

Messinger: Okay, so uh, you would say...is this an accurate reflection of what you said....your parents didn't really want you to go into teaching, but once you had decided to, they were behind you, and supported you? (exactly) (mmm-hmm) Uh, you said

earlier that you all joked that your mother was a better teacher than she was a mother (mmm-hmm), could you expound on that a little bit?

Dline: Well, I think there was a ...I think it started with a lot of jealousy because uh, when mom first started to teach, uh, her first position was at uh, oh, what was the name...it was...it was like a high school for uh, mentally retarded kids. And she had students ages 13 to 21, and she really hated it you know. Luckily she was only there for about a year. Then, she got the job that she's holding now, and all of a sudden her life changed, you know, she's got these 30 wonderful little kids, you know, six and seven year olds who just I mean, who just love her, and worship her. (how old were you at the time?) Oh, when she first started that was...19 years ago...I guess I was 4 or 5. (when your mother was starting to teach?) Right. So...and I can remember her coming home from work you know, and being so excited that she had this actually outstanding group of kids and uh, you know, and she would pick specifica specific student or girl or a boy and you know, it would seem that wou....that was the topic for the day, you know, and how...what a good reader little Johnny was or uh, how neatly little Susie writes or something like that, so I think thats why there was a jealousy that developed because here we were, not quite the same age, and wanting to hear the same things, you know, uh, from Mom, you know, wanting her to brag on our work that we did in school, and while at the same time she was...she would rather uh, brag on her students, you know, which is understandable and it sounds really selfish to say, but at the time you know, as little kids you think, well, gosh, I'm just not doing well enough. I'm not...there's something I'm not doing that those kids can do to get mom's attention, you know. And I think that started a long drive and a long cycle towards being overachievers because both my sister and I were overachievers from the first grade on. I mean, you know, neither one of us ever made anything but straight A's, and it was always to please mom and dad. And uh, they were pleased, and you know, they always complimented us and congratulated us on our hard work, and, but it just wasn't the same as with other kids, I don't think, because it wasn't new, you know. Mom had already been exposed to this because she had students of her own. She was teaching the same things that we were learning. And there was this competition there, I guess, that has always existed between you know, her kids at school and her kids at home. And uh, you know, there again, with her being uh, professional and having a job uh, 9 to 5 job you might say, it seemed that that's the way it was anyway, because so much extra time was spent at school on school functions and PTA and those types of things that it...it demanded a lot of her time outside of just her regular hours. And uh, it you know, there were times when uh, we...I can think of specifically having a PTA meeting scheduled for one night, and that was....for elementary age child, I think that is ...it's one of the most wonderful moments, you know, 'cause you know that mom and dad is coming to school, and your work is on the board because it was one of the best ones, you know. You did the best picture or you didn't miss any on your spelling test. Or uh, you did a

particularly outstanding writing lesson or something. And it was displayed on the wall, or on the wall or something for everybody to see; all the kids parents, you know. And uh, I can remember a couple of times you know, that we had a PTA uh, scheduled and she had one scheduled for the same night, so she could never be there...you know. And at the time dad was working nights, so he never went to the PTA, so it was just like...it took all the glory out of it. You know...you were really....you were so excited because the day before uh, your teacher had told you, you know, well, the writing paper of the week is gonna be Anita's or something, you know. You just beam the whole day, and you can't wait, and you get home and you say, uh, you know, I can't wait for you to go to PTA tonight because I've got a surprise for you, you know. And something as small as a writing paper on the board you wouldn't think would make so much difference, but it makes a lot of difference to kids that age. And uh, you know, you just...your heart is just torn out when your mom has to look at you and say, well, I can't be there. I've got to be at my school to talk to my parents, parents of my kids, you know, and she always said "my kids", and I hated that. I hated when she referred to those kids as her kids. But...that's just my mom, you know. Everybody....every child is her kid, 'cause she just takes everybody under wing you know, and she has just as much affection for them as I'm sure she did for us. And was always available you know, and uh, well, they treated her like their mom, you know. And it's probably not so rare for a first grade teacher, because that's the beginning of their lives and the beginning of a long trail, you know, and usually your first grade teacher is your most influential. You know, they make the biggest impact on your life. They're usually the ones who decide for the kid, I like school or I don't like school. That's where it all begins. You know...so, I mean, that ...that's what I meant by that phrase, we kind of felt like we always competed for mom. And that we were always in competition with her actual students. But it wasn't like she was neglectful, I mean, you know, sometimes you just...you just have a job that's more demanding than others. And I've said before that she's resented some of the time that she would have liked to have spent with us and just couldn't, because of either going to school or going to teach.

Messinger: Do you think that when you teach, you'll want to have children?

Cline: Not in the beginning. I...I've contemplated this many times. I think that for the first five years or so, and that could be an overestimation, I'm not sure, but I think it's best with anyone entering a new career that you have the least distraction as possible, in order to do the very best at what you set out to do. Because...I mean, children require a lot of time. And when I do have kids, I would like to have the most time with them. I would like to be established enough in a career that I could take time off to have a child, and take time off after that to watch them grow. You know, because I think those first couple of years are extremely important in the development of a child, the development of a child uh, as a relationship between a child

and parent, you know, so I think I'll probably put that off...I don't have any qualms about being middle-aged and being a mother, you know, because so many people do that now. But uh, in the beginning I think I'd like to just be single and childless, and do the best at my job, until I really get the feel of it. Because it's gonna take a while; it's just like anything else new. There's a lot of adaptations to make, and a lot of changes you're gonna encounter, and I don't even know where I'm gonna be. I could be in an entirely different state, and uh, you know, faced with a lot of environmental changes as well as social changes. So, it'll be scary in the beginning, both for the fact that you know, I may be in a strange place and I'll be with a strange group of people, and the students are all gonna seem as strange to me as I will to them, and so I think it will take some time just to work things through and kind of ...kind of go day by day and ...and do that with as little distraction as you can have possible.

Messinger: Do you think you would have done things differently if you had been in your mother's place? As far...saying that you had children (mmm-hmm), and were teaching first grade...would you have done things differently than she did?

Cline: You mean as far as the relationship that we had?

Messinger: Mmm-hmm.

Cline: Well, I'd have to go all the way back to the time that my mom got married. And that would have been the first change that I would have made. I think she and my father were married at an extremely young age. They were 18 and 19, I think, at the time. And uh, my father was in the service to begin with. And for the first four years, I guess, they were just shipped from place to place. And then, well, not for the first four years. Uh, because my mom was...became pregnant with me uh, just uh, about a year and two months I guess, after they were married, and that caused a lot of problems to begin with. So, it goes all the way back that far. I mean, I think if I had been in her place, and married to my dad, I think I would have given a little considerationa lot more consideration to the future than what they gave, but I guess it was just uh, a reflection of the time you know, that what they did wasn't so different you know, as far as a lot of couples been...got married and had children right away, for whereas now couples wait several years, if they decide to have any at all. But uh, and I think down the road uh, they would have changed it too, but I guess you don't contemplate those things you know, when you're newlyweds and everything. Everything's so wonderful and everything. And uh, so, I think I would have if I had been my mom in that position, I would have waited to start my family. And uh, I'm not saying that my birth was an accident or anything because you know, they have said many times that they were real anxious to start a family of their own, and that's real easy to realize because I'm sure that all married couples are anxious to have a child. And uh, at the time she wasn't even considering going to college. And she wasn't considering a career, because they were able to live and live okay on what my dad was doing. And then all

of a sudden you know, my dad was out of the service and my mom was pregnant again with my second sister and things just got a little more complicated, you know, four mouths to feed cost a lot more than just two or three. So, they...I think there came a crossroads in their lives together that uh, dad really encouraged mom to go on and start going to college. I don't think she...she didn't go on a full time basis to begin with. But he said, you know, there would be no problem with her starting her career and there you know, that started the age of babysitting for us, I guess. So, mom was able to do her thing, and dad uh, pursued his job and got a job in the coal mines to begin with, and has since worked his way up to his government position now. And it was just a lot of long, hard working years, you know, uh, I can't think of a better example of where blood, sweat and tears had more to do with what came about in the end. And if I'd been my mother I think that uh, I would have just given a little more thought to...to when to start a family and when to start a career. And done those things in a more orderly way. You know, of course, that's easy to say, being another person looking from the outside looking in. But uh, they're very proud of where they are now. Because they worked pretty darn hard for it. You know...and I'm proud of 'em because you know, seeing what they have done under the circumstances....

END OF SIDE 1

....the circumstances in which they achieve those things, those things which they have now, just makes me feel all the more determined in what I'm doing. I mean, I feel like there's nothing that I can't do, because nothing is that hard. It could have been a lot harder. And it was a lot harder for both of them, and they did it the hard way. I mean, it took my mom something like 14 years to complete her degree but she did it, you know. And uh, that gives me a lot of determination because I've got it a whole lot easier and uh, I think I'll do okay with that in mind.

Messinger: Uh....your mother just started....started out going to college? (mmm-hmm) And she...she knew what she was going to do immediately?

Cline: I think so. I don't think there was any doubt in her mind that...that she was not going to be an elementary teacher. But uh, she's always had such a love for children, and I can't picture her in any other career at all. I'm not sure, I mean, I guess I've never asked her the question, I've never actually asked her if she's doing now what she always wanted to do. But I feel pretty sure that that's the truth, or otherwise she would have...she would not be as pleased as where she is now.

Messinger: It seems like kind of contradiction in ways that she would ...she and your father, see teaching as something they should do, and then wants you all to just go on and achieve more than they have, but I think you're right, that a lot of parents do want that for their children. (they do)

Cline: It's a contradiction but it's almost like uh, I don't know...every parents dream or something, you know. No matter what status your parents might hold, they always want their kids to be just a little better than that and to achieve just a little more. And I think most of the negativity about teaching and I know that's especially true for my parents, is that it's just not uh, a very well paying job. I mean, it seems like you work so hard, and you put in so many hours, outside of the classroom, and you're ...the rewards seem so minimal, you know, and it should be the very opposite way. Because...the United States as a whole just doesn't recognize education as being that important or so it seems. Otherwise, teachers would be better paid than they are. You know...at all levels of education, I mean, you know, look at uh, professors, you know, college professors, they hardly get paid for what they do. I mean, it just doesn't even balance out at all. It would be more ... you know, there should be a system of checks and balances in education because of the knowledge that you have and the ability that you obtain to give that knowledge to others, I mean, that ought to be worth something. Not just you know, a pocket of beans and that seems to be what it equals. It's just not...it's just not fair, you know. And that's why so many people are discouraged from the field of education; that's why there's such a need and a lack of science educators, and math educators, computer science educators, they just...they...I'm sure, you know, I have a few friends who have been in this position that just feel like uh, the knowledge that they have is worth a lot more than you know, less than \$20,000 a year. When they could step into any other type of job and be making probably twice that to begin with. And uh, it's just discouraging, you know. If we paid our educators better, then we could get the best of science teachers, and the best of math teachers. I don't know that there's a way to solve that. I think steps have been taken to...to try to solve that and that is making the education curriculum just a little tougher, that way you weed out people who are just lazy. I mean, there are a lot of people who choose education simply because they feel like the curriculum is simply a breeze. And that's no longer true. And maybe it used to be, but the requirements now have been stiffened a little, and it's a little harder to be accepted and uh, more requirements have been added and so it's a weeding out process that I think is working really well, because I...I know that I had teachers through my life that I often questioned how they became educators. Especially in high school, I encountered a lot of those on the high school level, I just you know, I often asked myself, and I know other students did, too, you know, how did you get a degree? How were you able to teach this and you can't teach me? You know, and it's sad, because there are those out there. So, I think it's a good step towards uh, weeding out just plain lazy people. We don't need those types of people in the education field. Because they don't help...they only hurt. And the people they hurt are the people who are responsible for our futures.

Messinger: Let's talk about your sister some. Uh, sisters 11 months younger than you are, Cindy (mmm-hmm). Uh, since she

...she got married her sophomore year in college? (that's right)
Uh, how do you think that's influenced you?

Cline: Well, I think it makes me grateful that I didn't do the same thing, because married life as a college student is just not easy and I don't...you know, maybe that's an overestimate and an over statement, because I'm sure that may not be true for everybody. But it was hard for her, and it was hard for her husband, and it was a big adjustment to make. But uh, they handled it rather well. I mean, if I had to do...if I had to go through the same thing, I would hope that I would succeed as well as she did, but uh, I think it was twice as hard because you're...you're young and you enter a marriage and in her case, both partners are very intelligent, both are very ambitious and sometimes that works together, and sometimes it works apart, you know. Uh, one...one partner may get a little I don't know, what would you say...a little too ambitious and I know there were comments made throughout their marriage that uh, that just came up out of nowhere, I mean, I don't even know under what circumstances but that ones' career was more important than the other, you know. And there was always that kind of tension between them, you know, and her husband at this time still has those feelings that you know, he's an engineer and he's making three times the salary that she's making as an accountant, therefore his job is more important. And I'm sure if it came down to it, that if he had to be transferred or something, that uh, she would have no choice but to transfer because of those reasons. He's the breadwinner, and that's how things ought to be, you know, if we need to transfer, we'll transfer, and you'll just have to drop your job and hopefully get a better one. Or get one at all...wherever we go. And there were those kinds of tensions. But then there were good times, too, because there's a lot of security in having a partner during that time of life, because when you enter college, and all of a sudden you're alone for the first time in your entire life, all of a sudden you have to fend for yourself. You have to make important decisions, uh, you make them without the advice of anybody else, most of the time, you know, all of a sudden you hold the reins to your own life. And I think if most people would admit it, it's a lot easier to do with a partner; whether it be just a good friend, a you know, a fiancée, a boyfriend, a spouse, whatever it may be, or a sister, you know, or a brother. But I know that my sister and I have always been there for each other and we often ask the opinion of one another on uh, important decisions. And most...most of the time we have an answer, sufficient answer. So uh, I would probably be safe to say that she thought...that she thinks that things were much easier with a spouse than it would have been without. Plus uh, you know, there's somebody to do things with all the time. Everybody in college doesn't have a constant companion. I didn't... to begin with. I was involved with a lot of people a lot of time, but there was never just one person who I could sit down and talk to and discuss things with, someone I could lean on when I needed to, cry to when I needed to, someone to help me solve a specific problem. I was sought for those types of things by many people. I was always uh, the person you know, if you had a problem, tell

Anita. But I never had someone to tell it to. Because I ...I never had the time. I was always confronted with everybody else's problems, and my problems seemed minimal compared to other peoples. I often had to stop and think, gosh, you know, I don't really have any problems compared to some of these people, because I encountered a lot of different people in college and a lot of people who...who just weren't mature enough to handle being alone or uh, oh, just all types of things. People who can't handle relationships, uh, pressure of uh, the academic world, you know, it was too much for a lot of people. And uh, I think that uh having someone there definitely helps, and I'm sure it helped Cindy. I'm sure it did. And Tim, too, because uh, they have their own checks and balances you know. They...he had his strong points, she had her strong points and they certainly both have their faults, but it all balances out, when you trust somebody, and you love somebody that much. Nothing ever seems too big, you know, I'm sure there's never been a problem so big that she can't depend on Tim being there to help her with. So, I'm sure they would both say that ...that they benefitted from having a partner during that time.

Messinger: What do you think? Do you think they'd been better off if they'd waited before they got married, or that they needed that security came from having someone else always there as your partner?

Cline: I definitely think there was security for both of them because of I can't remember a time when Cindy didn't have a boyfriend. I mean, as far back as elementary school. She's always needed someone to depend on; she's always needed someone there. And it's never been my parents. I mean, she's always sought relationships outside of the family. And uh, I think that comes from a little bit of insecurity of being a middle child and her way of dealing with that was to have someone all the time; she had a boyfriend all the time. And Tim is a lot the same way. He was...we all went to school together, from first grade on, and Tim was spoiled rotten, you know, and there again he was...he was confronted with a different environment uh, of a large place where it was very easy to be lost in the multitudes and uh, he had something, you know. Cindy was his right arm. He knew that he could make it as long as Cindy was there. And uh, so they kind of drew on that, each of them drew on that from each other, because you know, since they were never alone. They were never alone at all.

Messinger: Did you ever look at Cindy and say, I wish I had a partner like this to share, to help solve my problems.

Cline: Well, sure, I'd tell her all the time, I'm envious of her, because she doesn't know what it's like to be alone. She really doesn't. Because she...she's never had to be alone. And uh, I've often wished that our relationship had been a stronger one uh, from a long ago, because like I said before, it was...we were always close, but there was that ...always that tiny bit of competitiveness that kept us from being real close sisters, you

know. And I've often said to her that you know, she just doesn't realize how lucky she is that someone is there all the time. And no problem is ever too big, nothing is ever so scary uh, there isn't anything she can't encounter because she doesn't have to encounter it alone. And I'm sure that's true...my feelings probably identify with a lot of single people out there. Because there's a lot of single people now, you know, more so than there were before, I think. And a lot of people who stay single to later in life and uh, you often get caught up in the thought of uh, uh, independence, you know, I'm so independent that I...there's

Cline: ...'til later in life and uh, you often get caught up in the thought of uh, independence you know, I'm so independent that there's nothing that I...there's nothing that I can't handle on my own. But deep down I don't think that's true for any one person, because things get scary sometimes, you know. And it does for me, especially because I you know, think well, you know, what if I'm in this situation and I need to call someone and there isn't anyone to call, you know. And that's a scary thought, you know, being in a strange place and maybe in the middle of the night or something and your car breaks down and you...who do you call? (laughs) It's really...you know, if you're far away from home or whatever. And uh, when you have a partner, uh, or husband or wife, you don't....those things never cross your mind, I don't think, because they are unconditionally there, always.

Messinger: You said earlier you thought college was a lot easier if you had a partner as in boyfriend, girlfriend, husband, wife, sister, brother maybe? Uh, did you ever feel like Cindy was your partner? And that...(no), no you never have?

Cline: No, I never have, because like I said, she was ...there was always someone else who occupied that time, with (mmm-hmm) her. And now we're a lot closer than we've ever been. I mean, maybe it's just a realization that uh, her marriage is very stable right now, her career is very stable. She really doesn't have a lot to worry about. And so we've got more time for each other. Even though we're apart, we talk more, we write, you know, and uh, I guess now we're the sisters that I've always wanted to be. You know, I've always wanted to Cindy was real bad in school to uh, to be a mother you know, she was always, rather than me being the oldest, checking up on her, she was the one who checked up on me, and she couldn't stand it; she had to know everything, you know, where I was going, with whom, what time I would be in, you know, all those things. And that caused a lot of tension between us too, because a lot of times I just felt like saying, it's none of your business, you know, I'm almost a year older than you, you have your own life and I have my own. That was real hard for her to realize that we had separate lives, and there wouldn't have been that problem had we been separated in the beginning, but we were never separated. I mean, we were hand in hand, from first grade through college, you know. And uh, we didn't live together during college. Well, in fact, we were roommates our freshman year in college, and after that we never lived but just a few minutes from each other, across town or something. And she always felt the need to make sure that I was doing was I was supposed to be doing, you know, or uh, if there was anything I needed, anything she could do for me, and uh, she always worried about those kind of things. And uh...but I think now she realizes that we're very much individuals with different personalities, and uh, different goals in mind. And we get along better because of that.

Messinger: Okay. Uh, I don't really know where to go next.
(laughs) (pause)

Cline: Well, I can't think of anything else as far as uh, my sister is concerned.

Messinger: Let's talk about friends from high school. In your earlier interview, you said that that uh, you weren't really in contact with any of them any longer.

Cline: No, that's true, I've lost touch with all of them. Uh, there were a few uh, who started col...who started college as freshman, all of us together, and those first couple of months, you know, we stayed in contact with each other and we visited each other quite frequently and went out together and went to the ball games together, and those kinds of things. But there again, we didn't need that. There came a time when we just didn't need each other. And we were too anxious to explore everything else that was out there. And there was nothing about each of us that was new any more, and there were so many other people out there who were interesting and new and who we sought to know more about. And we kind of even went our ways, our separate ways in college, because we just developed different interests, we had uh, uh, different careers in mind, we mingled with different types of people. We lost touch all together. I...went to the weddings of the people who I'm talking about now, are all married. A few of them have children already, and I'm the only one who's outstanding in that aspect in that I'm neither married nor do I have children, and it's kind of...it's kind of like what you always read about, you know, you always read in these books that there's this one person you know, out of a group of girls in high school who...who doesn't conform, you know. And I've never been a person to conform. They are the types of girls who I don't want to be.

I'm not saying these aren't good people, but uh, they have always had this in mind; they have always wanted the great american dream of you know, go to college, get a nice little career, uh, get married, work a few years and quit and have a family, you know. And they're very satisfied in doing that. And that has never been my dream. (laughs) It just never has. I've never wanted that for myself. I don't know if I'll ever have that for myself. If it happens, it happens, but if it doesn't, I'm not gonna get all broken up about it. But...but these girls, and I mean very seriously, and it's characteristic of the people who come from my hometown, it's just a fact of life with them, you know. If you grow up, you go to college, you get married, you have children. And you know, so the fairy tale ends. Without any...just about always no deviation from that, either. And I do...I don't think I ever understood that, you know. I...a family and children I guess have always been secondary to me because I'm my own person, and I want to find that own person and do what this person wants to first. And all those things are ...are very secondary to me, and I think they always have been. But not with these people, you know. They're just...they're so satisfied with what they're doing. And I'm not saying there's anything wrong with it at all, and there's not. But uh, you know, and so now they've done these things, they have a nice home, back home, you know, close to their parents, and everything and uh, I don't ...I couldn't identify exactly what their lives are like right now. But in my mind's

eye, I see them as very boring already, and being only 23 years old. I can't imagine being so set in life that it would be boring for me already. 'Cause there's so many things that are left to explore, so many places to go and people to encounter and obstacles to overcome. They seem so secure; I mean, and maybe they are. But I don't know if security comes with uh, having a spouse and having children and having a nice house and a white picket fence type dream, or if the security comes from knowing that you're never gonna have to encounter anything outside of that. And I think there's probably a lot of truth in that, that as long as you're....long as you're happy and you have a home, you know, you have nice kids and your husband and yourself get along, then there aren't any fears I think to a lot of people. That just kind of closes a chapter to a lot of outside things.

Messinger: What would you say your great american dream is?

Cline: I don't think there is such a thing. (laughter) Really...that's why I refer to that so often because I don't think there...now, maybe there was at one time, maybe there was a great american dream, but now I think it would be better to call it an individual dream. I think each person has an individual dream. (what about yours?) My individual dream? (laughs) Is ...I have to say probably to just be the best and do the best of my capabilities. And uh, there's a lot of things about myself that I haven't explored yet. And there's a lot of things that I know that I want to do, a lot of places that I'd like to see uh, hopefully, continually encounter different types of people and uh, always, always learn I guess, 'cause I don't think you ever can not learn. I don't think that's possible. I..I can't really pinpoint it because I'm still in a developmental stage, I guess. I...I pretty much have a focus on what I'm gonna be doing, in that I'll be teaching, and I hope to be a good teacher. But who knows? I could get my degree and I could choose an entirely different spectrum of the rainbow, you know, I don't know at whatever develops. And I guess ...I guess a lot of the security that I have comes with knowing that uh, I'm adaptable you know. It doesn't scare me to think that five years from now I may be five thousand miles away. In fact, that's intriguing because you think that yeah, that's a possibility, that's a distinct possibility. I could very well be five thousand miles away from where I am today. And still be what I am; still be functional, still have my wits about me, and be able to adapt. And for a lot of people I think that's true for a lot of people. And there's just so much...I guess it's just individualization that with people now. There's not such a need to ...to be a half of a whole, because you can be a whole within yourself.

Messinger: Okay. Let's go further back, we're going backwards instead of forward. Back to your childhood...you grew up on a farm (mmm-hmm), what did you do in summers, growing up?

Cline: Worked. (laughs) In one word, we worked, and worked hard. Uh, well, we lived on a farm and my family still lives there, and for anyone who hasn't ever lived on a farm, believe me

when I say that it's a lot of work to maintain, I mean, we don't even have a large farm, you know, we just have a few animals but a lot of acres to take care of. And the work is manual labor so I'm not just talking...piddle around in the flower gardens. I mean, there's a lot of hard work to be done. And every summer I guess well, there was always a garden, always a garden to tend, you know. And a big garden at that. And a lot of work involved with that, the planting, the caring for then the harvesting in the end. And it's just an ongoing process from the time you put the seeds in the ground until the time you take the fruit off in the winters, it's just continuous work and it takes a lot of attention and a lot of time. Other than the garden, we have about eight fields we put in hay. So, three times during the summer, you know, that hay has to be cut and put up, you know, if you've ever done that, you know exactly what I'm talking about. That's a lot of hard work. You spend you know, it's like a three day process, one day it's cut, the next day it's turned and if you're lucky and it doesn't rain, uh, the next day you're able to ...it's able to be baled and then put in to the barns or whatever. And my dad was always the type of person who you know, why hire hands when you've got so many here at home (laughs), you know, so everybody was out in the fields, you know, hoisting bales of hay and uh, sweating under the hot sun, because it always seemed like that the day it was time to put those bales up and put them into the truck, it was the hottest day of summer, you know, three times a year was the hottest day of summer. And it really wasn't. It just seemed so much hotter because you're exerting so much physical labor. And uh, so, three times a year we had to do that. And uh, I don't know...we sold a lot of hay. But we also used a lot of it to feed what animals we did have. And other than the seven acres that we put in hay, the rest of that is in yard, flat yard, you know. So, there again is a lot of work with...with uh, keeping the grass cut and the hedges trimmed and the _____ lines cleaned out, and uh, the creeks cleaned out and those kind of things. And people never believe me when I say that you know, but we...what we have done to our land we've done by ourselves. We've cleared a lot of it that used to be just overcome by brush and uh, trees and what have you. And I don't remember ever seeing my dad go out to work that we weren't right along by his side. And you know, we got down in there and got our hands dirty, too. Uh, my dad and I have always chopped the firewood that we used in our wood burning stove in the house; for as long as I can remember, I've helped him chop wood. And I can't...you know, I don't know how young I was when I first did that. Probably about ten whenever I was able to pick up an axe, I guess. And....

END OF TAPE

END OF INTERVIEW

Messinger: This is the 3rd tape in a series of interviews with Anita Cline. I'm Penny Messinger. Today is uh, February 10th, 1987. This interview is also in Huntington, West Virginia. And we're still talking about Anita's life in general. Right now, focusing on growing up on a farm in Raleigh County. Uh, at the end of the last tape, Anita was talking about working with her father.

Cline: Yeah, we did a lot of work together. Everything we did was done with dad, I mean, outside. My mother's not an outside person. And I told you about all the outside things that needed to be done, but other than that, we uh, the house that we owned is an old house, and it's probably about...at least 75 years old; I'm not sure of the specific date, so uh, naturally, when you've got an old house, you've got a lot of work to do and a lot of repairs to make, a lot of additions that were made, a lot of deletes....you know, constantly something to do. It seems like every summer there was a project that we tried to get done with the house to improve it. And uh, we've added probably a whole new wing to our house. And that kind of work was always done in the summer, because we were home from school and my mom was home from school, and uh, there was enough daylight left after my dad came home from work that we were able to put in many hours, and do that kind of work. And I have to say you know, the house looks good now. It doesn't look anything like it did when we first moved there. I can remember you know, very vivid memories of moving into that house, and it was so ugly and so big, it was so ominous to me, as young as I was. And uh, I just...you know, I loved it because it was...it was big and there was so much land and so much room and it was so pretty there, and there was grass and trees and everything. And before we had lived in a trailer and you know, this house, it..it made me understand why that people think trailer was claustrophobic because this house is so large. I can't imagine ever living in a trailer again in my life because we've always had all this room. But uh, owning a house and that much property is a lot of work and it's an on-going process you know. It never gets done. There's always something that needs done, whether you think your...you think you're finally finished and something else comes up here. We've completely redone our house on the inside and on the outside. And we've added a porch, we've added a deck on the upper level. So, it's been a lot of hard work.

Messinger: Are there a lot of farms around your farm?

Cline: Yeah, the entire area is just rural area. Our farm is probably one of the smallest in the area. As a matter of fact, we only own about 14 1/2 acres. And some of the farms that border ours are easily upwards of 80 acres; easily. And uh, those of some of the major farms, so they raise many, many types of animals, cattle in particular. And not just a few. The few that my dad have are mostly a hobby. These are very serious cattle farms, you know. They...they do the whole works. They market uh, new cattle and they breed them there, they have these huge farms, and they sell the milk and they sell eggs from the

chickens, and they sell the beef and so on. But it..it's a beautiful place; _____ is a beautiful place. It's nice rolling land; a lot of flat land, too. And uh, I can't remember any time that I thought it was ugly. Because I think my favorite time at home is the fall because there's so many trees around that the fall is just incredible. And there's no place I'd rather be in the fall but at home. Because that's where my memories are...the prettiest pictures are. And that's at any point on my property. And I can stand at any ...any place where we live and see something incredibly beautiful. And that's something I haven't been used to seeing in a long time, because the times that I do spend at home are just brief, and I'm not always there during the fall. And I'm not always there during the prettiest snowstorms and you don't think of snowstorms as being pretty, but in that place, uh, where we live, they are very pretty. And it's very clean and untouched. You know, you don't have uh...it's not...it's undisturbed by man when it snows there, other than just people who come and go regularly and tracks from animals or whatever. And there's a lot of wild animals on there, too.

Messinger: When you were growing up, did you identify yourself with a farm child? (Uh...) Or a child of a farmer, perhaps?

Cline: I think probably I did because there was a lot of pride in being you know, a farm girl (laughs), I guess. Because everybody else was, you know. And it was a lot of fun because a lot of my friends uh, that I went to high school with didn't live on farms. They commuted from uh, different areas, small communities, not cities. And uh, it was always a thrill to have them home because uh, you kind of got to show off what you enjoyed every day, you know. And that was just so much freedom and so much space. So yeah, I think I did. I probably told people that I was a farm girl and that I you know, uh, liked to tell stories of things that had happened on the farm. And my favorite being I think is...was being able to witness the birth of a calf. I mean, I thought that was the most fascinating thing in the world, that I'd never seen anything before. And the first time that I saw that was something else. I mean, I can remember going to school and telling all the kids, you know, "I got to see this." And uh, we've always had pets; cats and dogs, sheep and cattle, chickens. We had pigs for awhile. So, there were a lot of stories that stemmed from those days I mean, the favorites of my childhood I think. I doubt if there was anything I ever wrote about other than living where I do and other than the people in my family; I wrote a lot about my family. But I was very happy as child, I think. There was nothing that I would go back and change. There were bad times, but there were a lot more good times. They far out weigh the bad times.

Messinger: Did you say that farm girls or farm boys were the minority at school?

Cline: No, not where I came from; not at all. Because even though, uh, everyone didn't live on a farm, no one lived in the city, so everyone could sort of identify with that. Either they

had...they knew people who lived on farms, or had relatives or grandparents or whatever, who lived on farms, so it wasn't like having my friends home with me. It was like having them see something they'd never seen before because nine times out of ten they'd had. But, it was better because it was all mine, you know, this was my world and they were gettin' to see it. And I felt like they ought to be privileged to be part of it, even for just a small time, you know.

Messinger: Uh, did you have any girlfriends growing up that worked on a farm like you did, help their fathers chop wood or help put up the hay?

Cline: None. (none?) None at all. Uh, all the girls that I was friends with at that time in my life were the kind of girls that I don't like. I don't even know why we were friends. I guess because uh...and in a way, a lot of it was envy because they came to school every day dressed in lace and frills and ribbons in their hair and their hair always was styled and uh, oh, just very dainty little fragile, feminine girls, you know. And then there was me and my sister, (laughs) we looked more like the guys I think than we did the girls. I mean, we never wore dresses to school--never. And my mom never got up and uh, fixed our hair to go to school. I mean, that was just unheard of. And we always had short hair. And uh, simply because that was the easiest for my mom because there just wasn't time in the morning. When you've got...when you...you know, when both parents are going to jobs and their two kids going to school, and whatever, there just isn't any time to do all those little niceties I guess, that mother's often do for their daughters. Uh, they ... although most of them were daddy's little girls, they never did much with daddy. You know, they were more content to stay inside and play barbie dolls or play house or whatever, than they were to be just romping around the field, you know. And that was our favorite thing to do. It was just...I can't imagine not doing that unless the weather was just so bad that we had to stay inside, and then we played school. (laughs) I mean, you know, I owned a few dolls in my life, but I can't ever remember again playing with dolls, you know. I'd much rather be in the mud with the tractors. When my cousins would come down, that would be the big thing to do because we had this enormous sand pile next to our house. And that was like the community playground. Everybody brought their favorite truck, you know, and we could do some major construction out there in that sand pile. (laughter) But as far as...I can remember having a barbie, but you know, it was like it was really pretty and it was fun to put clothes on it and everything, but it was second hat compared to the outside things. You know...playing softball and played football and you know, romped around the woods and played hide-n-go-seek in the woods and those kind of things. I just played in the hay or something, you know. Or string a rope around the beam in the barn and that was a better toy than anything you could have bought. And it sounds really old fashioned, and it wasn't that long...long ago, but that's really the way we had our most fun. And our house was the community playground, you know. Everybody came to our house to play. I

mean, it was nothing for 20 people to be there in the evenings, and to have a big softball game going or football game going, when there was time. Chores came first, though; inside and outside chores had to be done before playtime and uh, a lot of times, that didn't leave any time to play, period. But when there was time, we were able to play up until time it was dark. And then when it got dark, it was time to do homework and uh, get on with going to bed, and those kind of things.

Messinger: Did the other farm girls that you knew help their fathers like you did, or work as much as you did?

Cline: I can't....I can only remember one girl uh, who was a neighbor of ours, distant neighbor of ours, actually. And she was a little bit older than me, and uh, her father use to cut our hay because he owned his tractor and everything. And sometimes she would come with him, and uh, I always thought that was really neat because you know, she got to ride on the tractor with her dad, you know. And I never got to do that. And uh, but as far as her getting her hands into it, she never did that. Because she just...I don't guess she liked...well, she was frail looking anyway, so, I don't think she could have if she wanted. Uh, she loved horses, though, and she sometimes would ride her horse to our house and show it off, you know, I was real envious of her, too, because I'd always wanted a horse and that was something that we could never have, because we just didn't have enough pasture for it. And as it turns out uh, later she became a beauty contestant or something you know, something really outrageous. I never expected this girl to...(laughs)....to reach such heights, I guess. But I guess that's what she did.

Messinger: Did you ever wish you had a brother so that he could do the work for you? Or, for other reasons?

Cline: Well....for other reasons I...it would have been nice to have an older brother. I always wanted an older brother, because it would have been nice to work along side him as well as dad, and uh, it would have been nice to have someone to confide in; someone older than me, someone I could ask for advice instead of people always asking me for advice. You know, what should I do about this, you know, how should I go about it. And uh, but then in a way I think maybe if I'd had an older brother, I might have been a lot jealous of him because he would have taken our place in a lot of things, like uh, a lot of my fondest memories come with uh, we use to go fishing with dad all the time, we use to go hunting with him and tracking rabbits or deer or something like that. And I know that if I had had a brother, I probably wouldn't have had those opportunities to do things. And it gave my dad a lot of joy, too, because just in knowing that we actually enjoyed those kinds of things, you know, it surprised him and amazed him sometimes that we were even interested in those kind of things, because girls just weren't supposed to be interested in those kinds of things. You know...you're not supposed to like wiggly, little dirty worms, and put them on a fishhook, and all that kind of stuff. But we always did and I...it was great fun. I can

remember have a good time just sitting on a riverbank with my dad, maybe not catching a darn thing, but you know, my dad sure tells some tall stories. (laughter) So that was some of our best communication happened during those times. A lot of times you know, we went as a family you know, my dad always had a boat and we a lot of times took our boat out on the lake or whatever; just had a nice time, whether we fished or swam or whatever, just rode around in the boat. It was a good time.

Messinger: You said in one of the earlier interviews that uh, you began working when you were 14, was that unusual in the community?

Cline: Very, very unusual, especially among my friends I think. Oh, because oh, their parents use to say things like, you know, they were just appalled that mom and dad forced us to work at such an early age. You know, whether they were or not, that's ...that's no big deal but they...I think in seeing us work at such a young age, they probablyit had probably a lot to do with why their kids didn't because I don't know, for whatever reasons they just uh, Susie is just too good to do that you know, and there's no sense in Susie working when we can provide her with anything she needs. And I think that they had the idea that ... that we were working because we had to work, and that was never true. My dad always encouraged us to work, simply because he felt that was the best way to instill some responsibility, and it worked; it worked real well. And I'll probably do the same thing with my kids. Because you need to learn those things early on, you need to learn how to adapt and how to handle yourself in certain situations when you need to uh, it gave me a lot of communication skills because 14 years olds are not usually forced to communicate with the public, you know. That's rare, and uh, responsibility...there's a lot of responsibility. And especially in handling money, and making money. There's a lot of pride in making your own money and uh, having your own account, and not an account that was put....that was established through an allowance. We were not ever given an allowance. We didn't get anything that we didn't work for. My dad use to give us a dime for every "A" we made in grade school. But that was because we worked for those "A's". That was never an allowance, because you know, like I said, nothing was ever free, not with him.

Messinger: How did you feel about going to work when you were 14?

Cline: I was scared to death. I think really I was scared to death. Uh, you know, never having had a job before, other than...not...well, I'd always had to work before but never in that aspect. I mean, never having a boss and never assigned specific duties that were to be done at a specific day, and uh, I had a boss that was real hard to please. It seemed that nothing that I ever did pleased her well enough. And it made it real tough; that first summer was real tough. And I often just wanted to say please, I don't want to work any more. But I'm glad I did because uh, you...you learn so many things about people when you uh, when you're around them that often, and this was seven days a week, this job; seven days a week, from nine to eight, every day. And

uh, it was a hard summer and it was a long summer but I probably learned more that summer than I've ever learned in such a short period of time in my entire life, because of the people that I encountered uh, because of this lady who was my boss, and with fellow workers. So, it was a lot of different things you could learn, by working at that age. It..it...it helped in my development a lot, because I could have potentially been a very introverted person. But with this job, I was forced to be exactly opposite that. You know, it's kind of ...it was impossible not to encounter many, many people every day. And uh, until you know, at first it's a real shock. And you're not sure if you can do it or not, but day by day, it becomes so much easier. And uh, and common place but you know, it just becomes a part of your life. And you...you get use to dealing with people, different kinds of people, different attitudes, different personalities, and uh, nothing seems scary any more. Because you feel like you've seen just a little bit of everything. And so on, through the years, with every job, the same types of things occurred and you just build upon that, you know. Every....it's like every situation you encounter, you learn from it, you know, the good ones and the bad ones, especially the bad ones. Because you encounter a lot of bad people out there. A lot of bad...and at that age you...it can have a profound impact on the way you feel about people and uh, I think I've probably dealt with it pretty well, because I don't feel like there's anything uh, that I could encounter that could have such a startling effect on my life.

Messinger: How old was Cindy when she started work?

Cline: The same age. We were both 14 at the time. Well, she turned 13...she turned 14 that summer. (mmm-hmm) And we both started in the same summer.

Messinger: Mmm-hmm. What...what did you do next? After working at the park?

Cline: Oh...well, I worked at the park for two years. That was my first two summer jobs. After that, let me see...oh, I worked in a tee-shirt place in the mall. That was like a big step upward, you know. (laughs) And uh, it was different, too. It was kind of boring, though. Because I didn't get to work many hours, and they were all night time hours and uh, you know, there would be some nights where you wouldn't see five people and that makes for a long shift. And uh, what did I do the next summer? I worked at Kroger's and that was hard work. It was real hard work. The next two summers I worked at Kroger's. And uh, since then I've just done a little bit of everything. I've always...uh, during the school year before we were able to drive, Cindy and I both uh, were allowed to babysit and were paid to babysit and we both did housecleaning, we were paid to clean houses and that kind of thing. And after we started driving, we both had got our licenses...then dad allowed us to take a part-time job during the time we were in school. And that was tough; that was real tough, because he allowed us to take the job but only if on the condition that our grades didn't slip. And they never did. I was

surprised; they never did. But it meant working sometimes 3-9, 5-9 and uh, getting home at about 9:30 and whether or not we had a test the next day, or homework to do, we only had from 9:30 on to do it. And it meant staying up late a lot of nights, you know, into the wee hours of the morning, if we were studying or whatever. But our grades never slipped, because if they did, we knew that if they did, dad would put an end to the job real fast. And by that time it was kind of nice, especially nice having your own money. Uh, dad bought us a car but only under the condition that we provide the gas to go in the car and we provide the money to keep and maintain it. And uh, but other than those expenses, it was...nice to buy your own clothes, it was nice to be able to see a movie and not have to ask mom and dad for the money. That was...that was great.

Messinger: Were there many other kids your age that were working by then?

Cline: Uh, I guess by the time we were driving there were quite a few. I guess more boys than girls, though. It seemed to be that the group of girls that we associated with, well, Cindy and I pretty much had the same circle of friends during high school and our friends were the cheerleaders, and the prom queens and those kinds of girls, so you know, there was never time for them to work. Occasionally they would babysit or something like that, but by that time, I didn't really consider that work at all, you know. Babysitting is just not work, you know. You may make a few dollars a night, but I just didn't think of that as a job at all. But it was. I mean, I'm not trying to knock those people who did babysit, you know, cause I certainly did my share of it.

Messinger: Did they seem to think you were different because you worked? Or did they pay much attention to it?

Cline: Uh...that's really hard to answer. Uh, probably for the most part, people were more envious than anything. Because we were always labeled as being spoiled, I guess, because we got pretty much what we wanted, but it was because we worked for it. I mean, uh, you know, if we came to school one day and we had on a new dress or something, a new outfit or carrying a new purse or something silly like that, you know, that was the first thing everybody noticed, was well, you know, where'd you get the new threads? And you know, they never believed you when you said, well, I bought these myself. They looked at you like, sure you did!. You know, and uh, and comments like uh, it must be nice to have anything you want. It must be nice to have parents that buy you anything you want. And I was like, maybe it is, but you tell me. Because these are usually the people who I envied who never had to work for anything. And who got pretty much whatever they wanted. And mommy and daddy did give it to them. And you know, they were the very people who was the first ones to say that to me or Cindy. It was just funny, though. People like that I laughed at. I just you know, laughed at and paid no attention to them at all, because I felt that I was much better off, a much better person, because I didn't like uh, there were a lot...an awful lot

of kids my age that used their parents and who talked about it. You know, who said, "my old man or my mom will come through. If I want this, sure, they're gonna get it. You know, they wouldn't dare not get it for me, cause I'm the number one daughter or the only child and I'm the baby or whatever the case might have been." And I really detested people like that. And especially people who tried. I mean, these are high school juniors and seniors who ...who tried to give the impression that they had a lot of money, you know, and that's all they ever talked was I am so wealthy and they were quite a few wealthy kids in our school, but the fact was that none of them were wealthy themselves. I mean, their parents may very well have money, but they didn't have a dime to their names, you know. But as long as they could pop out in daddy's Lincoln or a Corvette or Z28 or something, or have one bought for them as soon as they got their driver's license, they were something else, you know, because they were rich. So, I never...I don't know, those were just the types of people that I just didn't like from point one because they were mostly very shallow people; probably never said an original thing in their lives, but yet they brag. I can't stand braggarts.

Messinger: Didn't they know you worked?

Cline: I'm sure there were some who didn't know I worked. I mean, it wasn't like we...that was something we went around and advertised, you know. Yeah....within our circle of friends, I mean, they did know that we worked and they knew we worked hard. And most of 'em appreciated that and could identify with that. But then some of them were like you know, why do you work? Why do you work? You know, you're just 16 years old; you don't have to work. And the reply would be, you're right, I don't have to work, but I want to work, you know. And uh, there were others who didn't know, I'm sure. And could care less. That's just the way they were.

Messinger: Well, I can't really think of any more questions to ask you right now. Again, I'd like to thank you for helping with this interview and putting in the time and thoughts.

Cline: You're welcome. I enjoyed doing it.

END OF INTERVIEW